

**Arthur St. Clair to George Washington, May 5, 1774,
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
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FROM MR. ARTHUR ST. CLAIR.¹

LIGONIER May 5th. 1774

SIR

Tho I am an utter Stranger I have taken the Liberty to write to you and request your Advice and Assistance for the Bearer Mrs. Fraser the Widow of Mr. John Fraser² late of Bedford in this Province—

Mr. Fraser has in his lifetime often mentioned to me a great loss he met with at the Battle of the Meadows, and amongst his Papers, after his Death, an Account of it was found— The Colony of Virginia have always been so Generous to People who suffered in the War that she is encouraged to apply to it for some Satisfaction, and if it be as Mr. Fraser told me, she has a right to expect it, the Goods having been lost in consequence of his Horses being impressed for some Service to the Colony—

Mr. Fraser has left a Widow and seven Children very slenderly provided for, which to a Gentleman of your Humanity would recommend them to your Assistance, and if the Claim be a reasonable One will also engage you to direct her to the proper Mode of Application.

I should have done myself the Honour to wait on you on purpose, as it was Mr. Frasers dying request, that I would endeavour to recover this Claim for his Children, and I had

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procured introductory Letters from Mr. Allen & Doctor Smith, but some Affairs that have lately happened in this Country, render it improper for me to Go to Virginia at present—the Storm will blow over by & by when I shall have an Opportunity to deliver them. I Am

Sir Your very Humble and most Obedient Servant AR. ST. CLAIR

1 Major-General Arthur St. Clair was born in Thurso, Caithness, Scotland, in 1734; died in Greensburg, Pa., August 31, 1818.

2 Lieutenant John Fraser, whose home on the Monongahela, six miles south of the site of Fort Du Quesne, was seized by the French in 1754, and who, with Captain Trent, was tried by a court-martial for absence from the fort when it was surrendered to the French by Ensign Ward, April 17, 1754; but was exonerated and afterwards promoted.